

# REES' Pieces

## We are in the right spot

Residents of Colchester are among the luckiest people in Nova Scotia for a variety of reasons which includes: geography; among the lowest municipal tax rates in the province and a council who for the most part have made great decisions.

In retail, or locating a business such as fast food or gas bar, the fundamental rule is "location is everything". This holds true in Colchester's case, as it is known as the "hub" of Nova Scotia. With over 50% of the 1.8-million residents in the Maritimes located within 90 minutes of the heart of the county, Colchester is positioned to reap the benefits.

Aviation is and will continue to be an important economic engine. Colchester is lucky to have the former CFB Debert airport in its midst. With Halifax International Airport busting at the seams, and focusing on the international global market it is growing so fast it is looking for ways to find alternative homes for some of the associated businesses. With "bigger fish to fry" - the global positioning - there is a consensus the handling small aircraft and other support operations could easily be relocated an hour away in Debert.

The fact professionals from the regions largest airport are constantly looking at expansion and infrastructure enhancements to grow Debert as a possible location to solve their overcrowding problems is a benefit of untold proportions. The added fact is some former Halifax Airport executives live in Colchester helps.

Even looking into the crystal ball, does not mean Debert's airport is without its problems. In fact it has several major problems:

It's about 20 years behind doing what should have been done. (If it had been up to speed, maybe the large FedEx terminal facility might have been located in Debert).

Several current councillors want to minimize the emphasis on Debert Airport and not commit any funds to study or planning.

Knowledgeable staff, who recognize the opportunities, are not pushing back and advocating a strong exploratory program.

A peak into a crystal ball might reveal if council in concert with staff recommended a "fast tracking" of exploratory study and consultation, the Debert Airport might be the key to rapid sustainable economic development. Council, especially those who have been on council for one or two decades, should reflect on some of the important decisions made years ago, which steered the county in the right direction and are still paying dividends.

With the input of local professionals, who know the business, and the encouragement of current professionals at Halifax International Airport there might be an extensive list of businesses who would be better positioned if located in Debert.

Looking ahead to the October 2020 municipal election, candidates vying for a position on council might have a very strong election platform if they advocated extensive analysis of Debert's potential. It might result in substantial increase in the commercial tax base; extensive job opportunities and better use of an existing asset.

A much hidden or unrealized contributor to the economic betterment of the county came to light during the December 3<sup>rd</sup> presentation from Lisa Hartery, Executive Director, Nova Scotia International Student Program. Although the program has been in existence for 20+ years, its contribution to the local economy has been far below the radar screen. Currently there are 445 International Students from 29 countries attending classes at 22 schools throughout the Chignecto-Central school system.

In 2018, 27% of the international students remained in Nova Scotia to attend college or university. Two thirds of the students in the province are attending classes in rural areas or small towns. Over the 20 year lifespan of the program, the Colchester economy has had a collective input in excess of \$200-Million. All this without hiring additional teachers, as the international students are occupying empty seats as a result of declining enrollment. Across Chignecto-Central system there are approximately 300 hosting families, who receive \$625 per month for each student hosted. During the presentation Hartery said more host families are needed, and the size of the program is limited only by the number of host families.

What are your thoughts on expansion of Debert or the International Student Program?

Maurice

# Letters to the editor

This is an open forum for your opinions and comments.

MAIL TO: The Shoreline Journal, P.O. Box 41, Bass River, NS, B0M 1B0  
(902) 647-2968; Fax: 902-647-2194 Email: maurice@theshorelinejournal.com



Don Conrod and Charlene Fletcher with a tray of bacon ready for students to enjoy at the monthly breakfast sponsored by the Bass River Fire Department. (Ashley Fletcher Photo)



Fruit cups of fresh local blueberries were popular at the Bass River Fire Department's sponsored breakfasts at WCCS. Shown in the background are firefighters Steve Brown and Don Conrod. (Ashley Fletcher Photo)

## The Shoreline Journal

Here's where to find us:

- BASS RIVER:**  
Bayside Pharmacy  
Dominion Chair Factory Store
- BIBLE HILL:**  
C.W. Fraser Pharmacy  
MacQuarries Pharmacy  
Kennedy's Deli - Ryland Ave
- DEBERT:**  
Debert Mini-Mart
- FIVE ISLANDS:**  
Masstown Market Five Islands
- GLENHOLME:**  
Double "C" Truckstop
- GREAT VILLAGE:**  
Wilson's Gas
- MAITLAND:**  
Frieze & Roy General Store
- MASSTOWN:**  
Masstown Market  
MTM Retail Gas (Petro-Can)
- MILLBROOK:**  
Super 8 Motel  
Hampton Inn & Suites
- NORTH RIVER:**  
Grant's Grocery
- PARRSBORO:**  
CrossRoads Co-op  
Ken's Grocery  
Wright's Pharmasave
- TRURO:**  
Atlantic Superstore  
Best Western Glengarry  
Holiday Inn  
MacQuarrie's Pharmasave (Esplanade)  
Rath Eastlink Comm Centre  
Colchester East Hants Health Centre - Coffee Shop

**NEWSPAPERS IN EDUCATION:**  
Each classroom at the following schools will receive a copy of the Shoreline Journal:  
Bass River Consolidated;  
Great Village Elementary; Debert Elementary; Chignecto Elementary;  
Central Colchester Junior High School; Parrsboro Elementary and Parrsboro Regional High School.

We are interested in placing the Shoreline Journal in additional locations. If you have a suggestion, or wish to have the Shoreline available from your store, please contact:  
Maurice Rees, Publisher,  
902-647-2968, or E-MAIL:  
maurice@theshorelinejournal.com

The Shoreline Journal is proud to provide coverage of community events.



The Shoreline Journal (circ. 1650) is a monthly community newspaper serving communities along the Glooscap Trail from Truro to Parrsboro, Nova Scotia serving the communities of Belmont/Debert, Wentworth/Londonderry, Onslow/Masstown along the shore to Great Village, Bass River, Economy, Five Islands and Lower Five Islands. It is published on the last Wednesday of each month (earlier in December) with a deadline of the 20th of the month.

MAILING ADDRESS: The Shoreline Journal, P.O. Box 41, Bass River, Nova Scotia, B0M 1B0.  
PHONE: 902-647-2968; Fax: 902-647-2194 Toll Free 1-800-406-1426; Cell: 902-890-9850 • E-MAIL: maurice@theshorelinejournal.com

EDITOR PUBLISHER: Maurice Rees • ADVERTISING: Maurice Rees • CIRCULATION: Dorothy Rees

Canadian Publications Mail Products Agreement #40048924, ISSN #1209-9198



NEWSPAPERS ATLANTIC TRUSTED | CONNECTED | TARGETED

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES:**  
LOCAL SUBSCRIPTIONS: B0M / B2N / B6L - \$23.00, PLUS HST = \$26.45 • OTHER PARTS OF NS: \$28.00 plus HST = \$32.20  
ALL OTHER AREAS OF CANADA: \$30.00, plus HST = \$34.50 • USA SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$45.00  
HST: #890564404RT001. Printed by Advocate Printing & Publishing Ltd, Pictou, Nova Scotia

All rights reserved. Material published in The Shoreline Journal may not be reproduced in any form without prior approval of the publisher. Material to be returned to sender must be accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope.

1996 Heritage Award recipient. Listed with Canadian Advertising Rates & Data (CARD) and Bowden's Media Monitoring Service.

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada. | Canada

The publisher is not responsible for minor errors in ads, which do not lessen the value of the item(s). The publisher is not responsible for space beyond that portion of the advertisement containing the item(s) in error. Letters to the editor are subject to editing or rejection, must be signed by the author and contain a phone number.